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ANSWERS TO SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS

Some of you have written us to ask for answers to specific questions about the present status and staff of the former Nutrition Programs Branch. Letters of this kind have suggested that we answer such questions in the News Letter for the benefit of all who receive it. Some information about organizational changes appeared in the first item of the October 1945 issue which dealt with USDA reorganization in general, and some facts about the continuation of the national nutrition program were briefly stated in the first item of the December issue. As these general statements have not mentioned the whereabouts of the field consultants formerly on our staff and have not included certain other details which some of you are requesting, we will review some of these matters as they now stand.

The nutrition programs became a part of the Food Distribution Programs Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration within the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in the reorganization of the Department after the functions of the former War Food Administration began to be curtailed. As most of you know, our budget was materially reduced for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1945, in line with the general reduction of emergency programs as the war drew to an end. Our funds for the current fiscal year (which ends June 30) were granted on the basis of a much smaller staff and greatly reduced activities. The executive secretaries to State Nutrition Committees had to be terminated last July, with real regret on all sides. The field consultants stayed on through the summer to complete their reports and wind up their relationships with the Committees. The part of the program dealing specifically with nutrition clinic demonstrations is now in the U. S. Public Health Service. Our nutrition program with labor groups and several of the projects we were carrying on with the National Research Council had to be discontinued.

Our staff has been reduced to a small nucleus, which enables us to continue coordination through the Nutrition Planning Committee and through correspondence with State Nutrition Committee chairmen, and to continue the Nutrition News Letter and some other services to committees. During the next fiscal year beginning July 1, the extent of the activity which we describe as the coordination of nutrition programs (through the Nutrition Planning Committee here in Washington and through State, county, and local Nutrition Committees over the country) cannot be determined until we know what provision is made for the nutrition programs work. You have doubtless read in the papers that the whole structure of Government Departments and their programs are being studied. The readjustment of our programs to a peacetime basis is actually only a very small part in the solution of a very large problem.

It has been gratifying to us to learn that a number of State officials have commented on the work of the State Nutrition Committees, designating it as one of the outstanding accomplishments in the field of voluntary cooperation and participation in the war program. From other sources we have heard the most favorable comments about the manner in which nutrition committee members pooled their resources and pulled together for a common objective—a coordinated wartime nutrition program to reach all the people. The work on enrichment legislation is an excellent example, and one that caught the attention of the Governor in many States. We feel, as do all of you, that nutrition education and the programs through which it is accomplished are quite as important in peace as in war. The fact that you are continuing to work as a group is one answer; also, many of you are still writing to us for program suggestions and other help.

And now to answer questions about members of the former field staff. Margaret Dreisbach is working on a school

lunch study for the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, with headquarters at Beltsville, Md. Vivian Drenckhahn is with the National Tuberculosis Association, headquarters in New York City. Eleanor Enright is still with us in the Food Distribution Programs Branch here, but has joined the staff of the Industrial Feeding Program. Ruth McCammon has returned to the Extension Service and is the Home Demonstration Agent in Walla Walla County, Washington. Helen Walsh is in the Nutrition Section of the U. S. Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md., having the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Jane Williams, who developed nutrition programs with Negro groups in the field, has joined the field staff of the Nutrition Service of American Red Cross, with headquarters in Washington. Louise Griffith, who carried on liaison field work with the food industries, has returned to the Social Security Board of the Federal Security Agency, here in Washington. Katherine Helzer has joined the Washington staff of the Nutrition Service of the American Red Cross.

Several other questions that have come to us in recent weeks concern the News Letter. We expect to continue publishing this monthly message to you, insofar as we have material to make worth-while content. Usually there are several subjects to present in the first part of the News Letter, but items about committee activities for "Notes from the Field" are now more difficult to obtain. We fully understand that this is due to your full schedules and limited facilities for gathering in and summarizing reports of activities. But only as you provide us with material can this section of our Letter be kept alive. In recent correspondence we have been asked whether items should now come directly to us from local committees and individuals or through the State Committee chairmen. We assume that it is still in order for county and local committees to relay items to us through the State chairmen, so that members of the State Nutrition Committee may know of nutrition activities within their own State ahead of the delayed date when the Washington News Letter could report them. As we think all of you know, steps in preparation, clearance, processing, and mailing cause 4 or 5 weeks' lag in sharing items with you through the medium of this monthly "Round Robin" periodical. If you still wish to know what each other is doing, let us know

what YOU are doing and we shall be able to continue "Notes from the Field."

We should also like to know how useful the radio scripts and press releases are proving, both as to subject matter and form. We would appreciate both criticisms and suggestions on "Food Makes a Difference" scripts and "Food for Folks" releases, to guide us in the selection and preparation of background material for these two series. Your ideas about these services and your items for the News Letter should be sent to us, Food Distribution Programs Branch, in PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

SIR JOHN ORR DISCUSSES FAO BRIEFLY

The October and December 1945 issues of the Nutrition News Letter each contained considerable information about the Food and Agricultural Organization. The December issue announced that Sir John Boyd Orr of the United Kingdom was unanimously chosen Director General of FAO. On January 7 Sir John appeared on the program of the Annual Extension Conference and Institute in Washington, speaking extemporaneously to a large audience. High lights of his talk were summarized by the Director of Information of FAO of the United Nations. Considering its content of vital interest to you, we quote from that summary:

"Sir John outlined the development of FAO beginning with the conference at Hot Springs in 1943. That conference, he pointed out, reached four revolutionary conclusions: (1) Malnutrition causes ill and premature death that can be prevented if people can get the right food. (2) Some two-thirds of the people in the world are chronically malnourished. (3) The chief cause of malnutrition is poverty. (4) Enough food can be produced for everyone; it is neither lack of knowledge nor the niggardliness of nature that prevents us from doing it.

"The Hot Springs conference made many recommendations for international cooperation to correct these conditions throughout the world. In order that these recommendations might be more than empty words, forgotten as soon as the conference was over, it was arranged to have an Interim Commission appointed to carry on the work. In 2 years' time the Interim Commission has drawn up a constitution for a permanent organization, and in October 1945 a conference was called at Quebec, Canada, to establish

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

"The Quebec conference, Sir John said, was inspiring because it showed that, in spite of political differences over such things as boundaries, spheres of influence, and balance of power, nations can be brought together to work on a great undertaking for the common good. If they succeed in cooperating for this, it will make cooperation easier in other fields.

"He then went on to show what the idea behind FAO means. There is an enormous, unsatisfied need in the world as a whole for food and other agricultural products. If agriculture were to meet this need, it would have to expand everywhere, and there could be no surplus of almost any product for many years to come.

"The objective of FAO is to try to bring the need and the productive capacity together. Production must be increased in the undeveloped countries; modern farming methods must be introduced; industries must be developed to take people off the land. If such a movement once gets well started, it will go a long way on its own steam because it will engender purchasing power among hundreds of millions of people who now have virtually none; and increased purchasing power means increased production, and increased production means increased wealth in the world. More food and fiber, more farm tools and machines, more fertilizer, more clothing and furniture and good housing will all be in demand as purchasing power grows. Industry and agriculture will both have larger markets.

"The difficulties, Sir John said, are enormous, but by doing what is morally right—putting the needs of people first—we shall also be moving in the direction that is economically right.

"In telling what the FAO is now doing, he pointed out that as yet it is a very small organization, just born, with only a handful of people working for it. The first step is to develop a world statistical picture of the need for the supplies of the principal products of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. That FAO is now doing. The next step will be to use these figures as a basis for recommendations to governments and to other United Nations organizations. Meanwhile, plans are also being made to send a min-

imum number of missions of experts to the principal regions of the world to study possibilities for development.

"Sir John ended by pointing out the responsibility of the United States for continued leadership in FAO's field. It was the late President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who first proclaimed freedom from want as a United Nations goal. It was he who called the Hot Springs conference as the first step toward that goal. Scientists and other workers in the United States, and particularly in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, played a large part in shaping FAO. It will not succeed except as the nations make it succeed. Not only must the USDA continue to give FAO technical assistance, it must also help make the people of the United States understand what FAO means."

* * *

As we see it, this is where nutrition committee members can be tremendously helpful. Many people look to you for information and leadership in nutrition. You can interpret to them the philosophy that lies behind FAO, and explain how this one of the United Nations Organizations will function for the better nutrition of the peoples of the world.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

CONNECTICUT.—In New Britain an outdoor movie project was initiated by the Nutrition Committee of the local Visiting Nurse Association for the summer of 1945. During the three previous summers it had been difficult to assemble groups for canning classes or demonstrations. The movie project was tried as a means of taking canning, nutrition, and general health information to a ready-made audience in a large, centrally located park where a cross-section of New Britain's population spends its summer evenings.

The Darius Miller Memorial Music Shell proved to be a very satisfactory background and shelter for the screen and sound projector. Each performance included a canning film, one on nutrition, and one on some phase of general health. One of these, or an additional short film, was a comedy. The average attendance was 125; the interest, judged by attentiveness, was very good. Plans are under way to continue the project on an expanded scale during the summer of 1946.

TEXAS.—The State Nutrition Council met in Fort Worth on January 10, with an attendance of around 200, including a good representation from the Negro State Nutrition Council. This was the 1945 program which had been delayed owing to inability to get hotel space and reservations earlier. A talk was given by Dr. R. R. Williams, Chemical Director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, on "Mass Nutritional Reform," and one by Dr. W. Franklin Dove, Chairman of the Committee on Food Acceptance, Subsistence Research and Development Laboratory of the Army Service Forces, on "Food Habits." In addition to these excellent talks, a member of the Nutrition Council led a panel discussion on "Putting Good Nutrition to Work in the Home, School, and Community." The five participants, from the Home Economics Women in Business Group of the American Home Economics Association, were Dr. Marietta Eichelberger, Miss Anna Bines, Mrs. Clara Gebhard Snyder, Miss Albertine Berry, and Miss Trula House. In the discussion, each represented a food group—milk and other dairy products, meat and meat products, bread and cereals, fats and oils, and fruits and vegetables—according to her food industry connection.

LOUISIANA.—An excellent "working rule" of the State Nutrition Committee has to do with an overlapping period of service for the incoming and outgoing chairman. The new chairman is elected 1 year prior to the period of service so that he or she may sit in on the steering committee meetings for a year before serving as chairman. The ex-chairman also is a member of the steering committee. This plan allows for continuity of service and also orients the incoming chairman to the duties about to be assumed.

The December 1945 issue of "Lifting the Lid," a processed periodical of the Louisiana State Nutrition Committee, reports in some detail the content of papers given and panel discussions held at a recent meeting of the State Committee. Of particular interest was Dr. Lydia J. Roberts' presentation of how to get scientific facts over to lay audiences so that the facts would not only be interesting but could be put into practice afterwards. Dr. Marietta Eichelberger discussed the place of business in the nutrition picture, and pointed out ways the nutrition committee can use business facilities. The greater part of the meeting was devoted

to two panel discussions with 17 participants and an attendance of about 125 persons. The subjects under discussion were: "What should the nutrition program of Louisiana be in order to carry out the announced objectives of the State Nutrition Committee?" and "What groups should receive special attention in planning the Louisiana program, and how can the agencies and organizations of the State aid in reaching these groups?"

WHAT ABOUT THE "NEW" FLOUR AND BREAD?

As milled, the new 80 percent extraction flour will have a higher content of iron, B vitamins, especially thiamine, and better quality protein than a comparable lot of unenriched white flour. However, in iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin content it will be considerably lower as milled than the enriched white flour. Since War Food Order No. 1 requiring enrichment of all white bread and rolls is still in effect, the bread made by commercial bakers from 80 percent extraction flour will be enriched as required by that order. Enrichment of flour is voluntary (except where required by State enrichment laws), but it seems likely that many millers the country over will continue voluntary enrichment of flour to be sold in the retail trade.

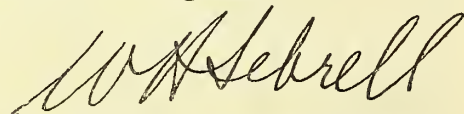
The new flour will contain no visible bran, and so should have no different digestive effects from the white flour we have been using. The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics is testing the new flour in household recipes. Results of these tests will be ready by the time the flour is on the market.

Those who examined and tasted bread made from the new flour early in February found it very similar to regular white bread. The loaf was not quite as light in texture as the white bread; it had fine flavor; in color it was just slightly creamy, not "dark."

Sincerely yours,



M. L. Wilson, Chief
Nutrition Programs



W. H. Sebrell, Associate Chief
Nutrition Programs